



USARPAC
Media Advisory
USARPAC Public Affairs
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5100

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September 20, 2012

U.S. Army Pacific Conducts “Stand Down” for Suicide Prevention

- WHO:** LTC Stephen Morris – Residency Training Director, CSM Frank Leota – USARPAC Command Sergeant Major, Wayne Hankammer – USARPAC G1
- WHAT:** Press conference/ Panel Discussion
- WHEN:** Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 10:30 A.M.
- WHERE:** Fort Shafter, Hawaii
- WHY:** Discuss the U.S. Army one day “stand down” and initiatives for suicide prevention

BACKGROUND: The United States Army joins our Nation in observing National Suicide Prevention Week 10-14 September and world suicide prevention day 10 September. The U.S. Army expands its observance throughout the entire month with events to include a one-day “stand down” for training and awareness. This initiative will take place Army-wide September 27, 2012, and is focused on total Army Family well being, resilience, stigma reduction and positive results achieved by getting involved and reaching out for help. U.S. Army Pacific will participate by holding classes, seminars, leadership development, and discussion groups all with the aim of reducing an enemy that has afflicted much pain and suffering on our Soldiers and Families. The Army experienced a record 38 suicides in July, the highest monthly total since the service began releasing monthly figures in 2009.

INTENT: To communicate that suicide prevention is a shared responsibility of Commanders, Leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians, Families and Community. Through leadership, education and respect for each other we can reduce or eliminate the stigma associated with seeking help. By engaging our local community for their help, we add a valuable member to our team in suicide prevention.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Discussion and interviews with Army health care representatives, personnel specialists, USARPAC’s suicide prevention director and USARPAC’s senior enlisted advisor.

MEDIA NOTE: Interested media should contact Media Relations Chief Mr. James “Goose” Guzior, USARPAC Public Affairs office at (808) 438-6350 or email at james.b.guzior.civ@mail.mil All attending media must meet at the Shafter lower security gate (main entrance) at 1000 and be escorted to the press conference site. No exceptions.